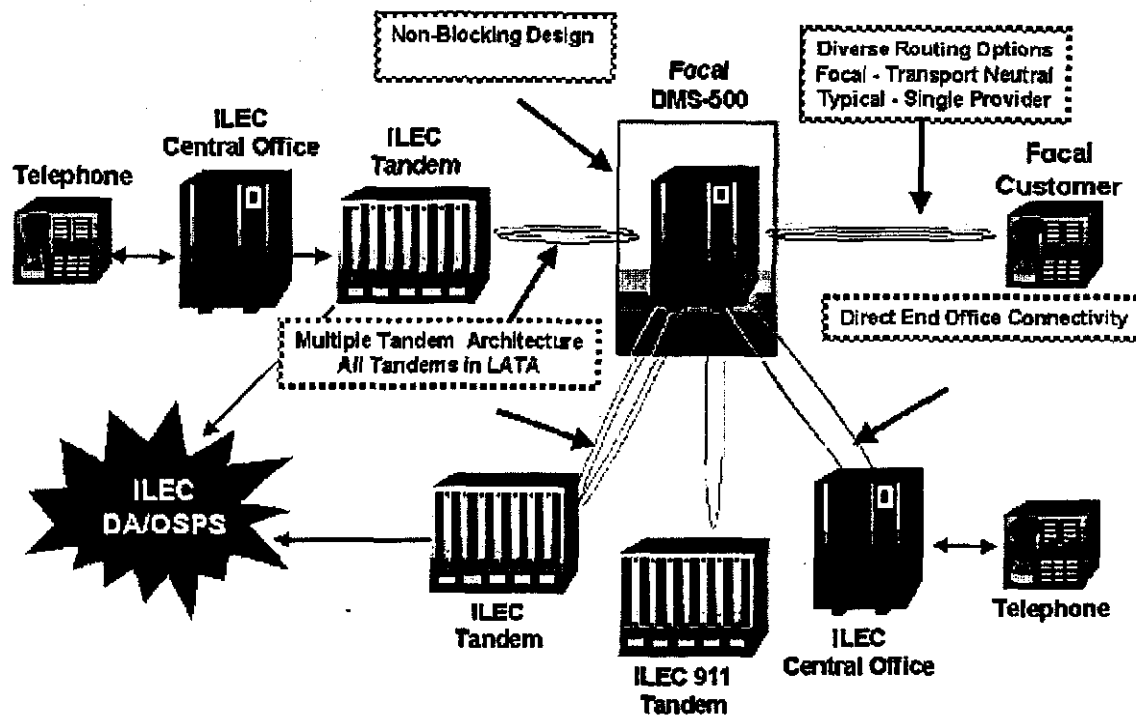




NETWORK

Your telephone traffic is too important to rely on only one route to its destination. Focal's network utilizes multiple paths to the telephone network, ensuring you diversity and failsafe telephone service. At the core of Focal's network is the Nortel DMS-500 switch, which combines the local switching functions of the DMS-100 with the long distance switching functions of the DMS-250 switch.

**NORTEL
NETWORKS™**



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Automatic Rerouting of Traffic

Focal uses a combination of diverse SONET-based fiber routes. SONET ring architecture limits the effects of a fiber cut by automatically rerouting traffic. An additional layer of network protection is provided by multiple SONET rings on three fiber carriers.

Procedures permit load sharing of traffic among multiple carriers and rerouting to spare capacity in an emergency. Rerouting occurs via DS3/DS1 digital cross-connect at Focal's central office.

Multiple RBOC Connectivity

Focal maintains diverse trunk group fiber connections to multiple RBOC tandem offices for routing local and IntraLATA traffic. Rather than relying on one provider, Focal allows you to have multiple access points to the network, and reinforces your connection to the network.

Higher Grade of Service

Focal's Grade of Service will attain P.005. The design target for Grade of Service is measured by the ratio of network trunks to customer lines and trunks. Our switch is engineered with a design ratio between 1:1 and 1.4:1. Contrast with typical telco ratios between 6:1 and 8:1.

Fail-safe Central Switch Engineering

The DMS-500 central office switch has been engineered to prevent any one single point of failure within the switch itself. CPU is redundant. Partitionable subsections allow for customer trunking and transport facilities to be provisioned in separate sections of the switch. Dual image information buses provide further reliability. Each fiber terminal is backed up in a 1:1 configuration at the DS-3 level and a 1:7 configuration at the DS-1 level.

Disaster Recovery Services

Focal has contracted with Nortel for ETAS (Emergency Technical Assistance and Services) for disaster recovery services. ETAS provides technical and hardware assistance in the event of a switching failure, as well as 24/7 remote monitoring of system performance.

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